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P R E S S R E L E A S E

FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK AND HONORABLE MAYOR SCOTT W. LANG HONOR IRISH-AMERICANS WITH CITY HALL FLAG RAISING

New Bedford, Massachusetts—The Irish community will gather this week to honor the Republic of Ireland and the cultural contributions of Irish-Americans to the City of New Bedford. A delegation of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, led by President Sean Toomey, will join with Mayor Scott W. Lang and City officials in a **special flag raising ceremony at City Hall on Friday, March 16, 2007 at 10:00 A.M.**

The Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick is a non-profit organization located in New Bedford Massachusetts dedicated to increasing the awareness of the cultural achievements of the Irish. The club is thriving and more community oriented than simply a social club. The organization annually sponsors \$8,000 in scholarships and delivers those scholarships to various local students regardless of their heritage. In addition, the organization contributes generously to various local and regional causes.

"Irish Americans have historically contributed significantly to the City of New Bedford and the Friendly Sons membership remains dedicated to continue those achievements through its philanthropic efforts to all citizens in New Bedford" stated President Sean Toomey.

Mayor Scott W. Lang stated, "The Friendly Sons continues to represent the proud history, traditions, and culture of the Irish and Irish Americans in New Bedford."

This flag raising event is part of St. Patrick's Day events that began on Saturday March 10, 2007. The Friendly Sons held their annual St. Patrick Mass celebration at St. Jules Church in Dartmouth followed that evening with the annual dinner dance at Whites of Westport that will be attended by more than 550 friends and members of the Friendly Sons. In addition, on St. Patrick's Day March 17 at 10:00 AM, there will be a special wreath ceremony, with Fr. Sullivan of St. Lawrence Church presiding, at the Irish Memorial at the intersection of East Rodney French Blvd. at Apponagansett Street. The weeklong celebrations conclude on Sunday March 18, 2007 when a large contingent of the Friendly Sons march in the prestigious S. Boston St. Patrick's Day Parade.

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